

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00

SCCT-01 PC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 /086 W

----- 069567

R 020953Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3913

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS EGEN ET

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
AND RELATED LAND REFORM DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ADDIS 3730

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES (DR. BANTAYEHU GELAW, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF SHOA PROVINCE AND FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE AWASH VALLEY AUTHORITY AND COTTON TRADE REPRESENTATIVES) INFORMATION AT VARIANCE WITH THAT SUBMITTED IN PARA 1 REFTEL. ACCORDING THESE SOURCES, COTTON CORP THIS YEAR IN MIDDLE AWASH VALLEY WAS BETTER THAN LAST YEAR ALTHOUGH CORP IN LOWER AWASH ONLY 60-70 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR. PROBLEM IN LOWER AWASH RELATED TO EARLY FLOODING AND INSECT INFESTATION AND NOT RPT NOT TO LAND REFORM ACTIVITIES. MOST OF CORP WAS PICKED DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BEFORE LAND REFORM WAS ANNOUNCED AND ALTHOUGH SOME COTTON MAY HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE FIELDS, MOST HARVESTED. IN FACT, ETHIOPIA WILL PROBABLY HAVE A SURPLUS OF 10-20,000 TONS OF COTTON AND CURRENT DIFFICULTY IS FINDING A MARKET FOR THIS SURPLUS, SOME OF WHICH

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IS ALREADY BEING EXPORTED IN SPITE OF LOW WORLD PRICES.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, BRITISH MEMBER OF TENDAHO PLANTATION STAFF WHO WAS AT PLANTATION WHEN VIOLENCE OCCURRED STATED THAT IT DID NOT TAKE PLACE ON TENDAHO LAND, HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH POSSESSION OF TENDAHO LAND AND DID NOT INVOLVE ANY EUROPEANS. THE INCIDENT WAS RATHER ONE OF A CONTINUING SERIES THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN HIGHLANDERS AND THE AFAR FOR VARIOUS REASONS ALTHOUGH LOSS OF LIFE WAS GREATER THIS TIME THAN USUALLY THE CASE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMENTS PARA 5 REFTTEL, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT PEASANTS IN GOBA AREA TEND PLANT SHORT-TERM CROPS SUCH AS VEGETABLES FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION DURING THIS SEASON. REASONS FOR THEIR ALLEGED FAILURE TO DO SO REMAINS UNCLEAR TO US AT PRESENT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES STRIKING DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THESE AND EARLIER REPORTS. IT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, COTTON, TEXT ON MICROFILM ONLY, LAND REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS03869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: ACCESSION #D750114-0128 REMOVED FROM SYSTEM, TEXT UPGRADED PER MEMO P900041-1956
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P900041-1957, D750114-0128
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750491/aaaadeyz.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED; CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 3730, 75 ADDIS 3730
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND RELATED LAND REFORM DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINS, EGEN, ET, US
To: STATE ASMARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006